1;Griffiths M-5 (ca. 1940) 1946 AW37 Kol AW37

564 navvies and labourers found in Jubbulpore and adjoining districts and [161] numbering about 1,500 persons only. They are connected by some writers with the Bind tribe of northern India and Bengal, but it is more likely that in Central India they are recruited largely from the Kol group. "In Mandla some Murhas seem to be Kols."[1] This caste is [332] employed in all kinds of earthwork, such as building walls, excavating trenches and making embankments for large tanks or for the rice fields. We found that similar work is being done by Kols all over Central India. At Barela there is a large tank covering several acres [312] and called 'Murhai.' Local Kols told us that it was so named because it was dug by Murha Kols many years ago.

13. *Gunj.* Russell and Hiralal not mentioned any group of this name. The 1931 Census has a "Gunjwar" in a long list of tribes and castes, but calls it "Unclassified." It was claimed that the Gunj *kurhi* originally lived in the west and came from thence into Central India. No one interrogated concerning this matter had even met a member of this *kurhi*. It is not unlikely that the name may be a variant of Binj, although one group included both in their list of Kol *kurhis*.

564 14. *Kabiriya.* The word means 'follower of Kabir' and is 794 probably basically a religious group. Kabir was brought up in the home of a Mohammedan weaver (*Julaha*), but through Ramananda came into touch with the theistic and *bhakti* type of faith proclaimed by Ramanuja. He was half-Hindu and half-Moslem and is revered by both. George Weston Briggs notes: "The real importance of Kabir rests in the enormous influence which he has exercised upon subsequent religious thinking, especially as it has affected the masses, because of his use of the vernacular. His attitude toward caste drew to himself a large following from the lower levels of society."[2] This designation on the part of the Kols shows that Kabir's influence had reached them, but the name may have some occupational significance. Kabir was a weaver and two weaver groups in Central Provinces, the Koris and the Koshtis have Kabiriya subgroups.

564 15. *Narchhila.* The name means literally "a cord cutter" and refers to the cutting of the umbilical cord at childbirth. It was stated [844] that the *kurhi* is given the name because it does not call in a midwife from a low Hindu caste to cut the umbilical cord (*nara*) of the newborn child. It seems more likely that this is a general term, as in the case of the Swasahas, for a family in any one of the groups who for

1 Russell and Hiralal, *Op. Cit.*, Vol. IV, p. 253.
2 Briggs, G. W., *The Chamars*, p. 204.